

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

MENTAL PHILOSOPHY. By Thomas C. Upham, D.D. Two volumes. Published by Harper & Brothers, Philadelphia agents, Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger.

This is a careful revision of Professor Upham's original work, issued many years ago, and which has been esteemed one of the best treatises on mental philosophy, for use as a school and college text-book, ever issued. The present edition has been subjected to the careful revision of the author, who has condensed in some places and enlarged in others, until it appears as substantially a new work.

All the results of the latest philosophical inquiries have been made use of to render the work as complete as possible, and in its new form the treatise will undoubtedly obtain a new lease of favor.

Professor Upham has endeavored to give a just and dispassionate account of the leading principles of mental philosophy, availing himself of the investigations of the different schools without giving his exclusive adherence to any. The work is thus essentially eclectic in character, and the author's idea has been to lay open the truth wherever it is to be found.

The rules of inductive philosophy have been adhered to, and the author has submitted his conclusions to the subjective test of his own mental experiences. The endeavor throughout has been to make the work as clear and practical as possible, and it is therefore admirably adapted for a text-book.

From Turner Brothers & Co. we have received the fifth and concluding volume of Fields, Osgood & Co.'s "Household" edition of George Eliot, containing "Silas Marner" and "Scenes of Clerical Life." These last are the admirable series of sketches that first brought the author into notice.

Professing to be a note from Harper & Brothers, suggesting that injustice has been done them in our remarks about the rival editions in course of publication by their house, and that of Fields, Osgood & Co., and they request the publication of the following:—

"Efforts having been made in certain quarters to excite the sympathy and compassion of the public and the press on account of our issuing, from our old plates, a cheaper and better edition of George Eliot's novels than the one published by Fields, Osgood & Co., we think it proper to say in explanation, and in reply to the unjust attacks upon us:—

"That we were the first to publish these works in this country, and that for the early sheets thereof we have paid from time to time in the aggregate the sum of five thousand dollars in gold.

"HARPER & BROTHERS."

We are not conscious of having done any injustice to either party in this controversy, and we endeavored to sum up the merits of the rival editions with perfect impartiality.

The card of Harper & Brothers, however, suggests that it is time for the American publishers to come to some sort of a definite understanding with each other, so that these quarrels between rival houses may cease. We do not know, of course, how much of the five thousand dollars paid by Harper & Brothers actually went into the pockets of the author herself, but in the absence of a copyright law, it was more than she had any right to expect, and, according to strict justice, it would seem that they had a claim upon her to the extent of their gratuity.

English authors have complained bitterly that they had no protection in this country against piracy, but they have not always shown a disposition themselves to act with the most perfect fairness. The price paid for advance sheets is, under the existing arrangement, a gratuity on the part of the American publisher, and the moral claim that this gives him is his only protection.

The English authors, however—and some of the most prominent of them, like Mr. Dickens, at that—have shown no hesitation about selling their works two or three times over to American houses, or as often as they can find purchasers; and the publishers, being thus without even the moral support of the author's endorsement, have the more excuse for declining to pay anything for English books, if they are liable at any time to have rival editions spring upon them which claim the regard of the public from the fact that the author is interested in the profits.

This method of securing two payments may be all very pleasant for a time, but it seems very much like killing the goose that laid the golden egg. There is, of course, something to be said upon both sides of this question, but the various little "unpleasantnesses" that have occurred lately between the different publishers indicate the propriety of a more definite arrangement than exists at present.

The immediate result of this quarrel, however, is to put upon the market good books at such exceedingly low prices that they are placed within the reach of all. The public are therefore the gainers, even if the publishers and authors derive no profit.

Turner Brothers & Co. also send us the first volume of Fields, Osgood & Co.'s "Household" edition of Thackeray's miscellaneous works. This contains "The Memoirs of Barry Lyndon," "The Great Hogarty Diamond," "Novels by Eminent Hands," "Diary of C. Jeanes de la Pinche, Esq.," and other minor writings, which are among the most enjoyable of Thackeray's works. He never wrote anything finer than "Barry Lyndon" or "The Great Hogarty Diamond," and his sketches and burlesques are in a vein that was peculiarly his own and peculiarly inimitable.

From the same house we have received "Our Boys and Girls" for October 16 and the October number of the XIX Century magazine, published at Charleston, S. C., which presents a variety of articles of different degrees of literary merit.

The Democratic papers in Kentucky are engaged in a lively discussion about party management and party principles. One of the country papers has discovered that there is after all such a person or thing as an "impracticable Democrat," and it describes him as one who mistakes prejudices for principles, ignores facts, struggles for impossibilities, revels in political platitudes, has a remedy for every political evil generally the same for all—foretells political results with the most absolute confidence, and, whether he was correct or not, is always ready to exclaim, "I told you so!"

LADY PALMERSTON.

From the Saturday Review.

The character of Lady Palmerston has been described in the Times by a writer who was evidently well acquainted with the subject of his essay. On his authority, and on the evidence of general repute, it may be assumed that no more capable person has ever presided over a political and fashionable drawing-room. Lady Palmerston properly devoted all her energies to the promotion of her husband's interests; and in cultivating his popularity she both served his party, and incidentally she contributed to the comfort and good-humor of a large and various society. The tact, the temper, and the general accomplishments of a statesman's wife are advantages as legitimate as birth or fortune, or a dignified personal bearing; and it happened that Lady Palmerston, after her succession to the estates of her family, possessed the means for exercising a splendid hospitality. As Foreign Minister in the Cabinets of Lord Melbourne and Lord John Russell, Lord Palmerston possessed great power, while his pecuniary circumstances were still comparatively narrow; but it is probable that Cambridge House and its mistress had something to do with the uncontented supremacy which he enjoyed in his vigorous and genial old age. The privilege of mingling three or four times in a season with a well-dressed crowd, of shaking hands with a Minister, and of bowing to his wife, is not perhaps extraordinarily valuable; but the leader of a party is less likely to be flattered by an habitual guest than by an austere stranger who happens only to be a political adherent.

The Cambridge House receptions afforded Lord Palmerston an opportunity of exhibiting the cordial demeanor which he had probably cultivated the more sedulously because he found it natural and easy. His own personal sympathies were, as he showed on more than one occasion, exclusively aristocratic; but probably all the world, beyond the limits of his own private circle, was to him equally welcome and equally indifferent. It was the business of his wife to avoid for him as far as possible all occasions of giving personal offense, and it would seem that she discharged her duty with remarkable skill. Although Lord Palmerston took no interest in literature, its representatives were admitted to his house, if their success had given them social position or political importance. All guests who were worth courting and winning were gladly received, and those among them who were distinguished by rank or by personal eminence served the additional purpose of acting as decoys to the common herd.

It may well be believed that the organization and management of such assemblies required feminine ability of a high order. A cynic or a political purist might object that there is no reason why a man should govern a great country because he has a clever wife; but it is not easy to disentangle the gifts of Fortune from the other conditions of power with which they may happen to be intertwined. Lord Palmerston would probably have been Prime Minister if he had been unmarried or if his wife had been an unambitious recluse; and if he was indebted to Lady Palmerston for any portion of his political triumphs, the result which she may have achieved was not necessarily inconsistent with the public interest. Knowledge of human nature, displayed personally or by deputy, is not an insignificant qualification for the rulers of men; and it is especially necessary where political power is concentrated in the hands of a privileged class. The relative importance attached respectively to measures and to men varies largely in proportion to the numbers of those who share directly or indirectly in the Government. The House of Commons intuitively trusts its ablest leaders, although they may perhaps discontinue plausible changes in legislation or in politics; and the constituencies, on the other hand, judge a Minister by the comprehensive nature of his professions, and to a certain extent by his performances. For them the gifts and graces of a statesman's wife whom they will never see possess no possible attraction. With the enlargement of the electoral body the personal preferences of members have become comparatively insignificant. A statesman who has alienated half his followers, or who needlessly irritates his adversaries, may defy discontented adherents as long as he enjoys the confidence of the country. The change is not wholly advantageous, for the nearest observers are the best judges of character, and men are, in an assembly which governs instead of merely passing laws, even more indispensable than measures. It is highly improbable that Lady Palmerston should ever have cared for political doctrines. If the doors of Cambridge House were once more open, it would be almost useless to conciliate members who know that they will be rigidly called to account by their constituents; yet voluntary support is, on the whole, preferable to compelled obedience. It may perhaps have been partly the merit of Lady Palmerston that in her time there were no Cavés or tea-room sessions. The kind of influence which she exercised is not to be confounded with the mischievous interference of intriguing women in courts or cabinets. It was never suspected that she had any object except the exaltation and security of a husband who reserved to himself the choice of his political course. When a woman who has got the ear of a king or of a powerful statesman fancies that she has political or religious convictions of her own, she becomes an intolerable nuisance. The disgraces of Louis XIV's later life were largely attributable to the piety of Madame de Maintenon; nor are more recent instances wanting of female pressure exercised in the same direction. In England, since the Revolution, the power of royal wives and mistresses has been restrained within narrow limits, and it happens that Ministers have never allowed the reins of government to pass into female hands. Between the Duchess of Marlborough and Lady Palmerston it would be difficult to find any statesman's wife who was supposed to have any perceptible share in his elevation, and with all her faults the Duchess of Marlborough was exclusively loyal to her husband. Fox, who willingly accepted the worship of ladies of rank, always contrived to inspire them with a devotion to his own person which was wholly independent of his principles or his policy. In the next generation Lady Hamilton used her utmost efforts to promote the interests of the Whig party, without affecting interest in any doctrines except those which her friends happened to profess.

It is difficult to imagine the existence of an American Lady Palmerston, although many women in the United States may possess the same kind of faculties as fully. Even a President's wife would have a less distinctive position, and she would have to deal with more impracticable materials. It would be hardly worth while to win over Senators and Congressmen when the next election would probably remove them from power; and the conventions and election agents who are the ultimate sources of power are not to be reclaimed by drawing-room blandishments. An English Constitution approximates gradu-

ally to the American standard, social influence, which is naturally and properly administered by women, will be less and less effective; but as long as aristocratic candidates enjoy an advantage in the competition for office and for power, there will be room in a narrower and contracting sphere for competent successors to Lady Palmerston. The minor diplomacy of ordinary intercourse is most skilfully managed by women, and it is their proper function to make up quarrels, or rather to avoid them. The most virtuous of ministers will prefer an acquaintance to a stranger, and a friend to a private enemy, and the man whose wife has the best judgment and temper is likely to have the smallest number of unpleasant collisions. The mistress of a house which is frequented by the most eminent members of society has a cheap bribe always at her disposal. Even if some Roland the Just, with ribbons in his shoes, rides himself on his patriotic self-denial, yet it is necessary that the model virtue should, if possible, teach her minister not to thwart her well-meant efforts by defects of manner or of temper. The chief ornament of Lady Palmerston's drawing-room was Lord Palmerston himself, who, according to his well-informed eulogist, always shook the hand of a guest with a special air of gladness, even when he was unacquainted with his face and his name. The flattering recognition which implied no personal knowledge seems to have been regarded as satisfactory by the sternest Liberals; and it would have been unwise to throw away so easy and convenient an instrument of popularity. Lord Melbourne, who was generally superior to Lord Palmerston in refinement, in cultivation, and in the speculative qualities of intellect, was, notwithstanding his equally genial disposition, far less widely popular. His wit, his original way of thinking, and his natural sincerity would perhaps have been more readily appreciated or tolerated if an adroit wife had supplied the commonplace requisites of social intercourse. Lord Palmerston threw all his powers into practical business, and in his hours of recreation he was content with the level of any company in which he found himself. It was a satisfaction to find that a formidable minister was in private life apparently little more than his equal. Lady Palmerston made the most of highly favorable opportunities, of forcing by example the moral that fact is one of the most useful of qualities, and that, more than any other virtue, it is certain to be appreciated.

The Idioms of Our New West. The fresh idiomatic phrases and "slang" words that pour in on the ear of the traveler through our New West, and especially in its mining districts, will greatly amuse and interest him. The language seems to be finding an invigoration among those hearty and candid residents of the borders of civilization. They are not drawn, indeed, from "the well of English undefiled;" but they bubble up from fresh springs, sometimes all sparkling with wit and meaning, and many of them will win their way and keep their place in the common stream of our mother tongue. What wealth of new words and new meanings for old ones would Shakespeare not have gathered up in a week's life among the miners of White Pine, for instance! "You bet" is an emphatic affirmative; "get up and get" an earnest command to go; "pan out," borrowed from washing sands for gold, signifies turning out or amounting to; thus a man or a speculation "pans out" good or bad as the case may be; "weaken" is widely used to express all kinds of failing or failure; a finely-dressed woman "rags out;" a humbug or cheat is a "bilk;" a loafer is a "bummer;" "shebang" is applied to any sort of a shop, house, or office; "ontrif" to anything new you have got; and "affidavit" comprehends everything for which no other word is handy; "bull-whacking" is driving an ox team, a business in which the present Senator Stewart, of Nevada, began his life in that State; "how" is adopted from the Indians as an abbreviation for "how do you do?" or "how are you?" "peter out" stands again for failure; "bed rock" for the end or bottom of things; "show" or "color" indicates promise or prospect; the Spanish "corral" is adapted to any sort of capture or control—as that a broker had "corraled" the stock of a certain company; a "biled shirt" is a white one; "square" anything excellent or perfect; "on it" signifies an earnest pursuit of any special end, and applied to a woman settles her character the wrong way; "you can't prove it by me," a general doubt or denial; "none of it mine," a declination; and so on indefinitely almost, a new phrase or word coming up into society from below every little while, having its run or trial, and becoming a permanent or becoming banished, as it is found to stand the tests of taste and of genuine meaning, or not.—Samuel Bowles.

India Cotton. The cotton commissioner of the Berar and Central Provinces of India has issued his report of exports to Bombay for the past season. He estimates the amount at 273,000 bales, compared with 220,000 in 1867-8, and 276,000 in 1866-7. Last year the heavy monsoon caused much cotton to remain in store till late in the autumn. This year, owing to high prices and the continued dry weather, almost all that has been grown has been sent to the coast. Khandon and Oomrawtee have now earned such a reputation for the staple that the produce of remote districts is brought thither in order to try and pass under the great name of the favored markets. Presses are generally resorted to. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway affords every facility for transport and delivery to the consignee, and the result is that carriage by road has almost ceased. The branch line now under construction to Khandon, and the probability that Oomrawtee will shortly be connected with the main system, will add still more to the importance of these places, while the completion of the railway from Kundwa to Jubbulpore will increase the area of cotton cultivation in the latter district and in Hoshangabad, Narsingpore, and Dumoh, which, even under present circumstances, need her almost acres devoted to the plant. Indigenous seed is found to answer better than exotic, especially when, as in the case of last year, the plant has partial drought to contend against. To prevent deterioration three seed farms have lately been established in central spots, each of which is under the charge of a competent assistant. The chief marts all have the benefit of telegraphic communication, and the country roads which debouch upon them are being materially improved.

From Bharatwar 164,000 bales have been already exported, and 15,000 more are said to be in store. Experiments made throughout the Punjab last year with Hingungah seed have proved a failure owing to unfavorable weather. Another trial is to be made during the ensuing season.

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